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P-4579

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT(S): Dolores M. Berger et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/395,677

GROUP: 1655

FILING DATE: September 10, 1999

EXAMINER: B. Forman

FOR: Method For Providing Long-Term Stability To Cells For Diagnostic Testing

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO:  
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ON: August 10, 2000  
(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

BY: Bruce S. Weintraub  
(NAME)

B.S. Weintraub 8/10/00  
(SIGNATURE) (DATE)

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In response to the Official Action of April 13, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Amended) A method for stabilizing the structure and nucleic acids of at least one cell in a sample, wherein said method comprises:
- (a) adding to a vessel containing the sample, a composition comprising [an effective concentration of] a substance [capable of] having a concentration effective for precipitating or denaturing proteins and [capable of] effective for